

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-27. Canceled

28. (new) A process for the preparation of S-(-)-chlorosuccinic acid comprising the reaction between S-(+)-aspartic acid and sodium nitrite in a hydrochloric acid-aqueous milieu, in the presence of sodium chloride, said S-(+)-aspartic acid and said sodium chloride being in a molar ratio ranging from 1:0.3 to 1:0.5, the improvement comprising isolation by precipitation of the reaction product by cooling the reaction mixture.

29. (new) A process according to claim 28, in which said precipitation is conducted at a temperature ranging from -10°C to -20°C.

30. (new) A process according to claim 29, in which said temperature is -15°C.

31. (new) A process for the preparation of S-(-)-chlorosuccinic acid according to claim 28, comprising using as the reaction medium mother waters from the reaction of claim 28, said mother waters used as at least partial substitutes for the sodium chloride and hydrochloric acid.

32. (new) A process according to claim 31, in which said mother waters are used at a precipitation temperature ranging from -10°C to -20°C.

33. (new) A process according to claim 31 or 32, in which washing waters are used in addition to mother waters.

34. (new) A process according to claim 28, in which the reaction medium comprises washing waters from the process of claim 28.

35. (new) A process for the preparation of S-(-)-chlorosuccinic acid comprising the reaction between S-(+)-aspartic acid and sodium nitrite in a hydrochloric acid-aqueous milieu, the improvement comprising using as the reaction medium the mother waters of the reaction of claim 28, said mother waters being transferred to a reactor at the S-(-)-chlorosuccinic acid precipitation temperature and as at least partial substitutes for the sodium chloride and hydrochloric acid, and said S-(-)-chlorosuccinic acid being isolated by extraction.

36. (new) A process for the preparation of S-(-)-chlorosuccinic anhydride which comprises the reaction between S-(-)-chlorosuccinic acid and acetic anhydride, wherein crude S-(-)-chlorosuccinic acid comes directly from the process of claim 28.